

Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Ecology, Research
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725
Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>



CER Events December 2012

Dec 1

Saturday 8am meet at CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - Travis County River Monitoring Trip**
- Join Claude Morris and the Travis County Colorado River Monitoring trip for a day on the river monitoring birds and more, and help the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership learn more about the ecology of the Colorado River.
- Meet at the CER parking lot at 8:00AM
- A river trip to monitor birds and vegetation along the river and you MUST provide your own boat or rent one from Cook's Canoes in Webberville <http://www.cookscanoes.com/>
- Contact Claude Morris at cgmorris@flash.net to participate
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Projects and Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>

Dec 4

Tuesday – NOON to 1pm AT Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

- **CER Monthly Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- Please note NEW Location for these first Tuesday Lectures – **Dougherty Arts Center**
- **Natural and Unnatural History: the Path Forward**
- I have spent the year looking at the history of natural history, which is as much an “unnatural” history of culture as it is of nature. At its core is a dedication to faithful human observation of the nonhuman world. The practice of natural history formed the foundation of modern biology emerging out of the taxonomy of Linnaeus and the biogeography of Von Humboldt which was grounded in “scientific” practice found in Aristotle and Pliny. However, natural history moved forward along dual pathways leading into science but also into literature, and this literary tradition of natural history in America can be traced from Thoreau to Carson to contemporary writers like Pyle, Nabhan, and Zwinger. I focused the second half of this year on urban natural history, which revealed the tensions within American concepts of nature and the natural, since the city is the antithesis of wilderness. In this final lecture, I will point the way forward to a prospective view of nature and natural history away from the retrospective longing for mythical wilderness and lost “native” habitats.

Dec 8

Saturday 7am-11am and 4pm to dark meet at CER

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Monthly Bird Survey**
- The HBBO Bird Survey is open to all levels of birder interested in intensive monitoring, although this is not a field trip. In the morning, we have teams covering different areas of the Hornsby Bend facility, and they count numbers of all birds seen. It is 4 hours of hard hiking and counting, but lots of fun along the way. We meet again around 11am to tally up the species. The afternoon involves looking around for species missed that morning, and we go until sundown. More information about the CER HBBO program at www.hornsbybend.org

Dec 15

Saturday All Day

- **Austin Christmas Bird Count. More information at <http://www.austincbc.com/>**
 - **CANCELLED - HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip**
 - The 2012 Austin CBC is scheduled for **December 15th**. If you know you'll be there, be sure to send an email to austincbc@gmail.com to confirm your participation.

Dec 18

Tuesday – NOON to 1pm AT CITY HALL Boards and Commissions Room 1101

- **CER Monthly Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **Natural and Unnatural History: the Path Forward**
- I have spent the year looking at the history of natural history, which is as much an “unnatural” history of culture as it is of nature. At its core is a dedication to faithful human observation of the nonhuman world. The practice of natural history formed the foundation of modern biology emerging out of the taxonomy of Linnaeus and the biogeography of Von Humboldt which was grounded in “scientific” practice found in Aristotle and Pliny. However, natural history moved forward along dual pathways leading into science but also into literature, and this literary tradition of natural history in America can be traced from Thoreau to Carson to contemporary writers like Pyle, Nabhan, and Zwinger. I focused the second half of this year on urban natural history, which revealed the tensions within American concepts of nature and the natural, since the city is the antithesis of wilderness. In this final lecture, I will point the way forward to a prospective view of nature and natural history away from the retrospective longing for mythical wilderness and lost “native” habitats.
- **Transportation Options for City Hall**
 - Automobile parking is available in the underground garage. Bring your garage ticket to the talk and we will validate it for free parking.
 - Bicycle parking is available at ground level on both the Guadalupe and Lavaca sides of the block.
 - Buses (select route to see schedule)
 - Chavez & San Antonio: [3 northbound](#).
 - San Antonio & 2nd: [3 southbound](#) .
 - Colorado & 3rd: [10 southbound and 17 eastbound](#).

Dec 29

Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER

- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day** – Help maintain Hornsby Bend! Did you know that all the Hornsby Bend trails, habitat gardens, and kiosks were built and are maintained by volunteers? If you enjoy birding or walking along the Colorado River here, please join us in maintaining these amenities and supporting public access at Hornsby Bend.
- We do three hours work and one hour of learning about the ecology of the Colorado River and Hornsby Bend - Wear work-clothes and work-shoes; bring water and binoculars if interested in birds.
- **New! POTLUCK LUNCH AND More ECOLOGICAL LEARNING** - Bring food for our potluck lunch afterwards at 1pm and learn more at a presentation on ecology during lunch.

PRESENTATION: Kevin M. Anderson - A Journey to Costa Rica: the Myth of the Rainforest

For more information about these events, contact Kevin M. Anderson at Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov or 972-1960